

Our Lady of Lourdes

Third Sunday of Lent • March 11, 2007

'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;



it may bear fruit
in the future.

Luke 13:9



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit our Parish Office.

Parish Office

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661-7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: rcioffi@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Regina Ann Cioffi

School Principal

Jennifer Gallagher

Director of Youth Services

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorcia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Michael Abbruscato

Salomon Acosta

Regina Ann Cioffi

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

Jen Gallagher

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Mary McMahan

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin/Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

Rex Muro

Organist

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

Parish Office

Mission Statement

As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.

Third Sunday
in
Lent

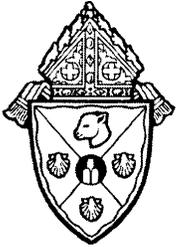
Vision...

so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to:

- **Live** out our *Baptismal* call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.
- **Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.
- **Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.
- **Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795



2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

You Can Make the Difference

We are asking each family to make a commitment to both their parish and to their faith. By responding to this appeal, it shows that your faith is deeply rooted in the teachings of helping one another to serve one another as Jesus has taught us.

God has blessed us all in many different ways and we ask that every family please consider making a sacrifice to the best of their ability based on those blessings. Your responses will help the many families across our diocese that look to the ministries that need this funding. Your gift will continue the mission of helping those in need.

Making a sacrifice for another is an unselfish act that will help so many. Pledges are a journey of faith in both the Ministries future as well as your own. Please consider what God has blessed you with and return a portion back.

For More Information, please call 516-379-5210, Ext.2
or e-mail us at www.drvc.org/cma.html

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2007 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Supporting the Community Around Us

TO PROVIDE FUNDS I/WE AGREE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

PLEDGE \$ _____ INITIAL PAYMENT \$ _____ BALANCE \$ _____

If you would like to charge your contribution to your credit card, please check here and see reverse side of this form.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____

A GUIDE TO GIVING

PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$5,000	\$500
2,500	250
1,500	150
1,000	100
500	50
300	30
150	15

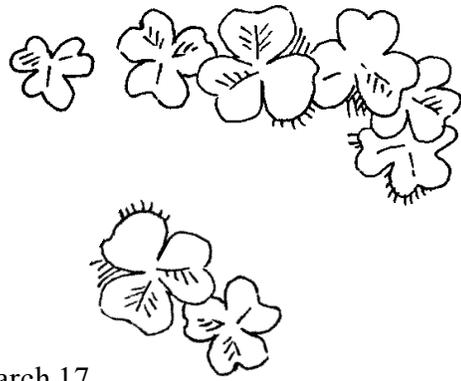
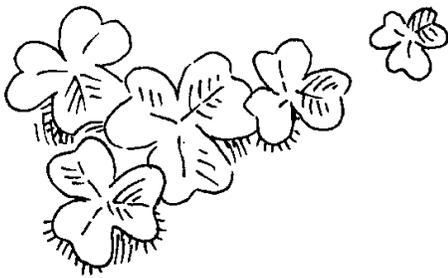
OTHER \$ _____

EVERY GIFT COUNTS!

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal
Thank you for your support

FOR GIFTS OF SECURITIES, PLEASE CALL THE APPEAL OFFICE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

MATCHING GIFTS: IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MATCHING GIFT FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, PLEASE FORWARD TO THE CMA OFFICE



A Festival of Irish Music

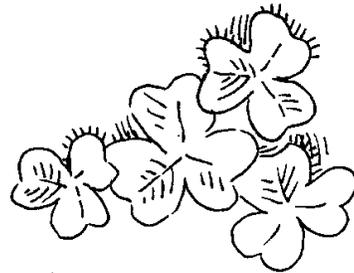
Don't let your St. Patrick's Day celebration end on March 17. ...
let it continue here at Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Festival Singers are coming to OLL!
This fantastic choir has just finished their standing-ovation performance at Carnegie Hall!

The concert is scheduled for **Saturday, March 24 at 8 PM in the Church.** Their repertoire of Irish songs and variety of popular hits will have you tapping your feet and dancing "The Irish Jig."

Included among the "Festival Singers" are OLL's own *Bill Best, Kathy Sullivan* and *John Sullivan!* Tickets are only \$10 and are available at the Parish Office. What a great opportunity to enjoy the songs of the season. Tickets are now on sale—get yours before they're gone!

Please join us after the concert for fellowship. Hospitality will include Irish soda bread, tea and scones. Come share your "gift of gab" and socialize with your parish family after the concert.

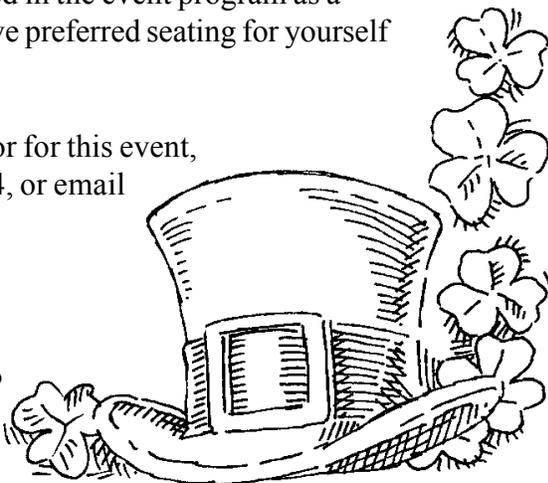
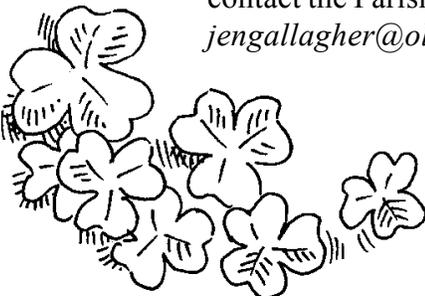


Would you like to be an event sponsor?

For \$100, your name will be published in the event program as a contributing sponsor, and you will have preferred seating for yourself and your guests.



If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, contact the Parish Office at 661-3224, or email jengallagher@ollchurch.org.



You're invited !
Come and see what we are learning
at
Our Lady of Lourdes School

We invite all parishioners and particularly those interested in Catholic Education and their children to come to our

Curriculum Fair
Thursday, March 15
7 PM until 8:30 PM

Come and see the fine work that the students of Our Lady of Lourdes School are doing in...

Technology

Faith Education

Drama

Language Arts

Literature



Science

Fine Arts

Computers

Music

and so much more!

Registration is ongoing for the 2007-2008 school year. We have openings available in our 3 year-old Nursery Program and our 4 year-old Pre-K Program. Other grade levels are also available. If you have any questions, or you are interested in registering your child in our parish school, please call the school office at 587.7200.

The following students from OLL have been selected to play in the Long Island Catholic Honor band. They are: *Alyssa Acompora, Danielle King, John Pannacchione, Richard Wilkinson*. These students represent the "Best of the Best" musicians from our area Catholic schools. Congratulations to our fine musicians!

Our Lady of Lourdes School Fashion Show!

Tickets are now on sale...Our Lady of Lourdes School will be hosting a **Fashion Show on Thursday, March 29 from 6:30 -10:30 PM** and will be held at La Grange Inn, West Islip. The cost is \$50 per person. Your ticket includes dinner, wine, dancing and of course many prizes and raffles – this is an event not to be missed! Tickets are available on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your seat please contact the Fashion Show Chairwoman - Kate Newman at 587.6948 or e-mail to bounceusa@aol.com. You can also contact the school office at 587-7200 for tickets.

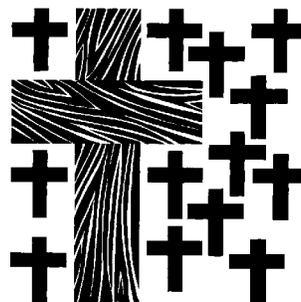
We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event!

Stations of the Cross

We remember the road to Jesus' death and link his journey to our own as our parish's deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion.

Come and pray with us...

**Each Friday during Lent
1 PM and 7:00 PM**



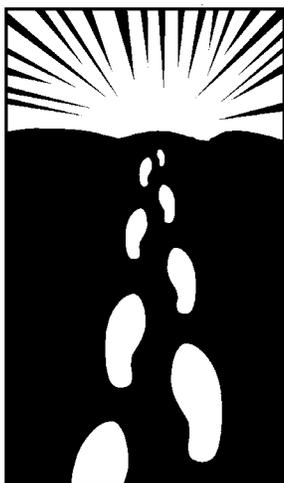
Living Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, April 6 at 7:30 PM in the Church

This is a must for your Lenten and Holy Week journey!

Our parish community comes together – led by our young people, our Music Ministries and members of our parish community – who share their own personal experiences on this most holy and solemn night. The celebration includes the Veneration of the Cross.

Children's Liturgy of the Word



Following the Footsteps of Jesus

This Lent, our children are making use of the Little Purple Book – a day by day book for them to walk through the Lenten season. Each week we're going to look at the ways we can "*follow in the footsteps*" of Jesus by listening to His Word and being more like Him each day!

We love our children and families here at OLL and want you to be a part of our parish community! Save the following dates for Holy Week 2007...

Monday, April 2

Family Reconciliation Service – 7:30 PM – Parish Center

Thursday, April 5

Children's and Family Holy Thursday Service – 4 PM – Church

Friday, April 6

Children's Good Friday Service – 12 Noon – Church

Saturday, April 7

Easter Egg Hunt – 11:30 AM – Great Lawn



Easter Sunrise Mass

We are in need of volunteers to prepare and plan our Easter Sunrise Service. Last year we gathered at Captree State Park and what a beautiful celebration it was!

If you are interested please e-mail jsureau@ollchurch.org or call at 661.3224. We need you to help make this year's service as beautiful as last year!

Pancake Breakfast

OLL's chartered organization Cub Scout Pack 330 will be having its pancake fundraiser on **Sunday, March 18 between the hours of 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM**. The cost is \$5 which includes a plate of pancakes & sausage along with juice and coffee. This fundraiser will help support our scouting program for the boys in our pack. We appreciate your help in making this year's fundraiser a huge success.

Senior Circle

OLL Senior Circle is sponsoring a day trip to the **National Center for Padre Pio in Barto, Pennsylvania**. **The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18**. The cost of the trip is \$40 and includes a video, a tour of the museum, prayer time, a visit to the gift shop and a late lunch.

The bus will leave the OLL parking lot at 8 AM.

For further information and reservations, please call Vera at 587.1553.

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

Parish Pilgrimage

Travel this summer to Montreal and Quebec. Experience a pilgrimage that brings a wonderful fellowship among us. In Montreal, enjoy Montreal Harbor, the Basilica of Notre Dame, Botanical Gardens, the famous Oratory of St. Joseph. In Quebec, experience the largest French speaking city in North America. Visit the Basilica of St. Anne de Beaupre, stroll down world known St. Catherine Street and experience the Chateau Frantenac. As we travel, we will have occasions to celebrate Mass with our own Father Bob presiding and Deacon John assisting and our fellow travelers will have the opportunity to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.

For more information, come to Our Lady of Lourdes Faculty Room on Monday, March 19 at 7:30 PM. This will be the last opportunity for accepting deposits. Please call the Parish Office to receive a copy of the travel itinerary.



Religious Education

always doing more...

Ash Wednesday 2007

Eileen Rega, Grade 7/Room 23, along with their Catechist Katie Poletti, helped the "Social Action" Group of our parish to set up for the Simple Soup Lunch. Thanks, Social Action, for these simple meals (supper too) offered as a way to remind us of the power of fasting and of living simply...

Grade 6/7/8 Hangout Nite

High School Chaperones- *Catarina DaSilva, Dan Frodell and Dan Sierra*-students of West Islip High School, went to St. John the Baptist High School to participate in the SJB "Prophet Fair." What a great job they did telling SJB students about giving service at Our Lady of Lourdes and helping at Hang Out Nites. There are a lot of interested SJB kids. **All are Welcome!**

High School Chaperones help with set-up, participate in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc., and assist the Adult Chaperones.

This Friday, March 16 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM in the Parish Center is the next Grade 6/7/8 Hangout Nite. All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our parish... come play volleyball, basketball... we have Guitar Hero 2, Dance Revolution, MUSIC and more... **DON'T MISS IT!**

"THE SIX"

Sunday, 6 PM Mass all 6th, 7th and 8th Graders and their Families...

3rd Sun of Lent... March 11... Gr. 7... "SERVE"... SERVICE PROJECT SUNDAY *

4th Sun of Lent... March 18... Gr. 6... "LISTEN"... TO GOD'S WORD

Palm Sunday..... April 1..... Gr. 8... "PRAY"... AS HOLY WEEK BEGINS

* All 7th Graders participate in a Service Project within Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family. Please come and join with all the 7th Graders of our parish and their families as we celebrate their commitment and dedication.

Adult Faith Formation

American Mystics: Thomas Merton and Jessica Powers

One night only...

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

7:30 PM until 9:30 PM

Parish Center

Our presenter is Kathleen Reid, MA, Director of Religious Education, St. Philip Neri R.C. Church.

We all need good role models! Here we will explore the life, legacy, and writings of these two 20th century Catholics and Mystics. Through presentation, discussion, and reflection... we will see what wisdom we can receive from these fascinating, creative, and gifted people.

Pre-Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, between 9AM - 5 PM and 7PM - 9PM, at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religious@ollchurch.org. Fee: \$25 [No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School Tuition. Fees may vary appropriately.]

Daily Mass

8 AM

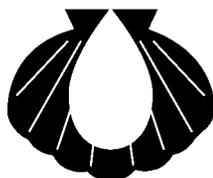
Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM



Baptisms

Giovanna Maritza Adames

Emmanuel and Jennifer

Samantha Sofia Guercio

Philip and Claudine

James Stephen Randazzo

James and Kathleen

Carmine Joseph Vandenberg, Jr.

Carmine and Gina

Mikel Hadi Hachem

Hadi and Marguerite



Rest In Peace

Robert W. Sebor

Agnes Whelan

William J. Hayes

Margaret M. Miller

Barbara Notine

Rosary/Novena

Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Monday and Tuesday at
8 PM and Saturday at
7 PM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

Remembering...

Monday, March 12

8:00 AM Pasquale DeVivo

Tuesday, March 13

8:00 AM Steven Perone

Wednesday, March 14

8:00 AM Lucille Harsch

Thursday, March 15

8:00 AM Patrick and Donald Manning

Friday, March 16

8:00 AM Kevin Clyde

Saturday, March 17

8:00 AM Teresa Wright, Peter Reehil, George F. Bukowski, Jo Brogan,
Catherine Miller, Peter Jerome, William Manzi, Robert Sebor,
Charlotte Klemballa, Cecilia Fiore, Joseph Fiore, Gabrielle Azzarelli,
In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart, St. Jude, and St. Francis

5:00 PM Lillian Daly

Fr. Stan Chukwube

Sunday, March 18

8:00 AM Barbara McGarrity

Fr. Stan Chukwube

9:30 AM Joseph Rizzo

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Angelone Family

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

12:30 PM Charles Suydam and James Healy

Fr. Ed Dowling

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Brian Schuffler, Hermina Loring, Rick Munkwitz,
James MacConchie, Eileen McGuire, Joseph Buccola, Anne Cirulnick,
Douglas Killane, Jacob Anthony Habertztl, Michael Walsh,
Anne Scime

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Altar Bread

and Wine

Jo Brogan



RCIA



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Lent is such a special and holy time for each of us. The season of Lent calls us to strip away the excess in our lives, to reflect deeply on who we are and who we have become and to make a commitment to renew ourselves. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.) is a process for those who wish to become Catholic or become fully initiated in the Church. In many ways, the season of Lent belongs to these people as they enter the final stage of preparation for reception of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Recognizing their role in the ONE CHURCH, our parish's catechumens – *Jenna Anderson, Jason Cohen, Jessica Dienstag, Katharine Farrell* – joined with other candidates in our Diocese at St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Ronkonkoma on the First Sunday of Lent. They are now THE ELECT of the Church – chosen for Baptism at the Great Vigil.

This past Sunday, some of our parish's candidates – *Angela Cirulnick, Stephen DeLise, Roseanne Hicks, Thomas Hicks and Andrea Jones* – joined with Bishop Dunne at St. Patrick's Church in Smithtown for the Call to Continuing Conversion. They, too, are now called to the Easter of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Throughout Lent, we will celebrate the "scrutinies" – times for the candidates and catechumens to "bring out and strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good" in them – at the 11 AM Mass each Sunday.

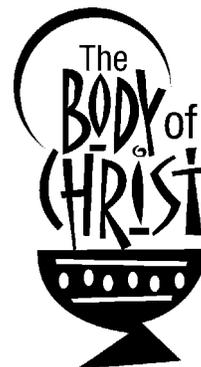
The Church gives us this public and life-giving process so that our soon to be Elect can be nourished and supported by our parish family. At the same time, we know that when we initiate others, we confront and renew our own identity as members of the Catholic Christian community.

If you or a loved one are interested in receiving becoming a part of the R.C.I.A., please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to fatherstan@ollchurch.org, snancy@ollchurch.org, jengallagher@ollchurch.org or jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Living Liturgy

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

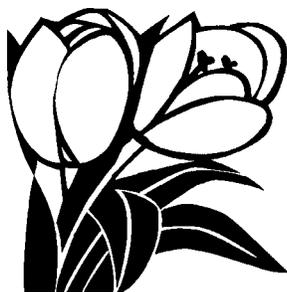
Are you interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Lourdes? This is such a wonderful and life giving ministry in our parish. Special training sessions are offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre this Spring. If you are interested, contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org



New Liturgical Norms

You may have read in The Long Island Catholic or in your own readings about liturgy about Bishop Murphy's request that all parishes in our Diocese follow the latest directives from the Vatican. This will not mean much in terms of our regular prayer life in the parish. Our priests and deacons will now purify all of the vessels after Mass in the Sacristy. Our sacristans will then clean them after they have been purified.

Bishop Murphy, in his letter to the priests and deacons, is clear in saying that this is not a knock on the "laity" concluding his letter by saying, "This does not mean that anyone is 'unworthy' to purify vessels....it is simply another way to emphasize that we are blessed to be involved with the most precious gift the Lord left us on the night before He died: His Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Eucharist."



Easter Flowers

The work of planning our parish's environment is not an easy one! Already our Art and Environment crew is working hard to make our celebration of the Triduum and the Vigil a great one! If you would like to remember a loved one in a special way, please return one of our Easter Flower Offering envelopes found at all the doors of the Church. Your loved one's name will be listed in an upcoming issue of the bulletin. What a wonderful way to remember our loved ones during the season of hope and resurrection!

Easter Flower Offerings

Easter Flower offerings received by Sunday, March 18 will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin.



- baked beans
- boxed potatoes
- boxed rice
- canned meat
- cookies
- crackers
- hot chocolate
- mayonnaise

Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
 For information/assistance call 661.9262.

Help from an Angel Network

Starting the network.

In a time when budgets are stretched to the limit and needs are increasing daily, a new solution was sorely needed. This was especially on the mind of Pat Wallace and Pat Falco who manage the food pantry here at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. They were always short on food at the end of the month and rarely had any “extras” to give out to families.

Pat Wallace mentioned the monthly shortfall to her son, James, who responded, “What you need is an Angel Network!” Confused, Pat asked, “And what do you mean by that?” Explaining it, her son said, “You could form a network of local businesses that would underwrite the pantry by a specific amount every month.” Delighted, Pat responded, “Do you think that could actually work?” Her son assured her it could work and he became the first monthly donor! Now we have four donors who contribute a total of \$300 a month to the pantry, and the parish is scouting for more donors.

If you know of a business that you think may be interested, or you are a business owner yourself, and would like to consider becoming a part of our “Angel Network”, please contact our Parish Outreach at 661.9262. Thank you for your support.

Financial Summary

March 4, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 22,715.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 1,715.00

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$21,000.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Monenna Kennedy*. If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Communion Calls

Communion brought to those who are homebound. Contact the Parish Office at 661.3224.



Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names of parishioners who:

- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Christian Bullock, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Millie Durkin-Barrera, Jason Fisher, Jimmy Grillo, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Monica Jasinski, Brigid Kinney, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Anna Nieroda, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Rose Serragano, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM.**

All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in **front of the Blessed Sacrament**.



Third Sunday of Lent

The hurricanes of 2005 will be remembered as some of the most devastating of all time. Lives were lost and property was destroyed. In the aftermath, much discussion and heated debate was centered on who was responsible for providing help and how quickly that help arrived. But seemingly lost in the discussion was the reality that no one in the path of the terrible storms was spared at least some destruction; how each person prepared for the coming storm made the most difference.

In today's Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree. A man had been waiting three years for the fig tree to bear fruit; when it seemed that the tree would never bloom, the man ordered it cut down. But his worker asked for an opportunity to try and help the tree with some attentive gardening. Each day, we are given a fresh opportunity to bloom, to bear witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Like a barren fig tree, God is waiting for us to bloom. He sent his only Son, the Suffering Servant, to proclaim his love for us. We also know suffering in our lives, whether it be an illness or a devastating storm. But if we are truly united as one with the Body of Christ, we all suffer when only one of us suffers (CCC 791). It is only when we have bloomed that we will be able to show true compassion for those in need.

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Readings for the Week of March 11, 2007

Sunday:	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday:	Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



Gentle Reminder:

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. (Your clocks need to be set one hour ahead.)

Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:



Daniel D'Arienzo-*US Army*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Frederick Wm. Ellis-*US Army*
John Finn-*US Army*
Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*
Michael Mallimo-*US Army*
Peter Provenzano-*US Army*

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Fr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island.

Next Sunday's theme is:

"Patience."

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, www.religionandrock.com.

Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELECARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

Here Politics and Faith Meet: Long Islanders Seeking Justice

How Catholic citizens “work for a just ordering of society” as called for in Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love)

Advocating for Justice Over the Long Haul

Charles Kerner, Ph.D.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Journey to Justice Committee

The Church is God’s family in the world. In this family no one should go without the necessities of life.

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

In 1994, some members of the Journey to Justice Committee at St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish in Melville had taken steps to introduce affordable housing into the former Long Island Developmental Center (LIDC) that lies within our parish boundaries. The builder, with the Town’s approval, was planning to build only luxury housing – mostly for affluent senior citizens – on this largest remaining parcel of land in the Town of Huntington. There were no plans to build affordable housing for families with children.

A great leap forward came with the formation of a housing committee by Long Island Congregations, Associations and Neighborhoods (LICAN). The committee’s members were extraordinarily knowledgeable and hard working. For five years the committee worked with other groups to form the Huntington Township Housing Coalition, lobbied every Town Council member; turned out hundreds of supporters; collected thousands of names on petitions and gave researched-based speeches to the Town Board—all for the goal of family affordable housing at the LIDC site.

These efforts and a media campaign didn’t seem to work despite the apparent justice of our demands. As a last resort, some members of the housing committee formed the Fair Housing in Huntington Committee (FHHC) to pursue action through the courts. FHHC’s legal travels started in federal court in Central Islip, went to the Court of Appeals in Manhattan and returned to Islip.

Why did we persevere? FHHC felt that reason and the Federal Housing Act (FHA) were on our side. The FHA prohibits discrimination based on race and protects families from exclusion. The wheels of justice grind slowly, four years and counting. Mother Theresa said we are to be judged not by success, but faithfulness. The Church teaches that housing is a basic human right - a basic necessity - required for a life of dignity. I feel that our suit follows Catholic Social Teaching and Pope Benedict’s call for *caritas* – love - because we are working to create affordable housing for people in real need: the working poor and young families with children.

*Do you want to work for justice? Contact Dr. Richard Koubek at
Catholic Charities’ Public Policy Education Network, 516.733.7077
or by e-mail: Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc*

Bereaved Support Group

St. Brigid's Church in Westbury will be starting its spring support groups for the newly bereaved. A group for newly widowed and a second group for individuals who have lost a family member other than a spouse will be starting on Wednesday, March 21. Each group will meet for 10 sessions from 7:15 until 8:30 PM. The cost of registration is \$20. Please contact Adriana at 516.334.0021 for additional information.

Renew My Spirit

Bereavement conference March 24 from 9:30 AM until 4 PM at Kellenberg Memorial High School. Keynote address will be given by Fr. Charles and Laurie Mangano followed by discussion sessions with a professional staff of presiders that will address: Grief is a Family Affair, Men and Grief, The Grief of Children, Secondary Trauma: Helping the Helpers and more. Registration is \$60. Please make your check payable to Catholic Cemeteries and mail to Diocese of Rockville Centre, P.O. Box 182, Westbury, NY 11590

Retrouvaille

You can help your marriage now. Do you feel alone? Do you argue? Have you stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult time in their marriages. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the next upcoming weekend, please call 1.800.470.2230.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome

As part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of our diocese, Bishop William Murphy invites you to join him on a pilgrimage to Rome November 4-12, 2007. He has asked Msgr. Jim McNamara, the pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Nesconset, to be the spiritual leader. If you wish further information or to book online, please visit www.pilgrimages.com/rvcd or call toll free 1.800.206.8687 for a brochure.

Maria Regina Residence

Maria Regina Residence is a skilled long term care facility located on the property of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood. It provides Adult Day Health Services offering a wonderful day program including transportation and meals, as well as a loving atmosphere provided by an inclusive staff. If interested, or for further information, please contact Veronica Anderson, Director at 631.299.3045.

Help Wanted

A position is open for a Rectory Cook for five priests at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Rectory for Saturday nights. Possible coverage of vacations and sick times. Please call business manager at 631.667.4044, extension 110.

Part time secretary position available at Mary Immaculate Church, Bellport. Duties include office work, telephones, and weekly bulletin-three days per week. Must be computer literate. Please call 286.0154 if interested.

The Cross as Revealing the Passion

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

We speak of one section of the Gospels, that which narrates Jesus' life from the Last Supper until his death and burial, as chronicling his "Passion". On Good Friday, the lector begins the Gospel reading with the words: "The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John".

Why do we call Jesus' suffering just before his death his passion?

Generally this is not properly understood. We tend to think that "passion" here refers to intense sufferings, as in "passionate suffering". This is not wrong, but misses a key point. Passion comes from the latin, PASSIO, meaning passiveness, non-activity, absorbing something more than actively doing anything. The "Passion" of Jesus refers to that time in his life where his meaning for us is not defined by what he was doing but rather by what was being done to him. What is being said here?

The public life and ministry of Jesus can be divided into two distinct parts: Scholars estimate that Jesus spent about three years preaching and teaching before being put to death. For most of that time, for all of it in fact except the last day, he was very much the doer, in command, the active one, teaching, healing, performing miracles, giving counsel, eating with sinners, debating with church authorities, and generally, by activity of every sort, inviting his contemporaries into the life of God. And he was busy. He is described at times as being so pressured by people that he didn't even have time to eat. For almost all of his public life Jesus was actively doing something.

However, from the time he walked out of the last supper room and began to pray in Gethsemane, that activity stops. He is no longer the one who is doing things for others, but the one who is having things done to him. In the garden, they arrest him, bind his hands, lead him to the high priest, then to Pilate. He is beaten, humiliated, stripped of his clothes, and eventually nailed to a cross where he dies. This constitutes his "passion", that time in his life and ministry where he ceases to be the doer and becomes the one who has things done to him.

What is so remarkable about this is that our faith teaches us that we are saved more through his passion (his death and suffering) than through all of his activity of preaching and doing miracles. How does this work?

Allow me an illustration: Ten years ago, my sister, Helen, an Ursuline nun, died of cancer. A nun for more than thirty years, she much loved her vocation and was much loved within it. For most of those thirty years, she served as a den-mother to hundreds of young women who attended an academy run by her order. She loved those young women and was for them a mother, an older sister, and a mentor. For the last twenty years of her life, after our own mother died, she also served in that same capacity for our family, organizing us and keeping us together. Through all those years she was the active-one, the consummate-doer, the one that others expected to take charge. She relished the role. She loved doing things for others.

Nine months before she died, cancer struck her brutally and she spent the last months of her life bed-ridden. Now things needed to be done for her and to her. Doctors, nurses, her sisters in community, and others, took turns taking care of her. And, like Jesus from the time of his arrest until the moment of his death, her body too was humiliated, led around by others, stripped, prodded, and stared at by curious passers-by. Indeed, like Jesus, she died thirsty, with a sponge held to her lips by someone else.

This was her passion. She, the one who had spent so many years doing things for others, now had to submit to having things done to her. But, and this is the point, like Jesus, she was able in that period of her life, when she was helpless and no longer in charge, to give life and meaning to others in a deeper way than she could when she was active and doing so many things for others.

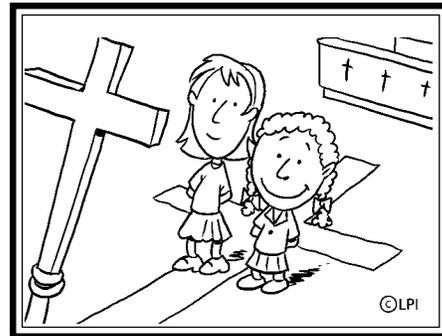
There's great lesson in this, not the least of which is how we view the terminally ill, the severely handicapped, and the sick. There's a lesson too on how we might understand ourselves when we are ill, helpless, and in need of care from others.

The cross teaches us that we, like Jesus, give as much to others in our passivities as in our activities. When we are no longer in charge, beaten down by whatever, humiliated, suffering, and unable even to make ourselves understood by our loved ones, we are undergoing our passion and, like Jesus in his passion, have in that the opportunity to give our love and ourselves to others in a very deep way.

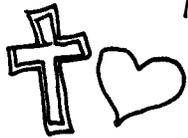
Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

Sharing the Gospel

I sin. You sin. Everybody sins. God knows that we cannot be perfect like God. But God wants you to love him and talk to him. God wants you to be sorry for your sins, learn from your mistakes, and grow closer to him every day.



Mission for the Week



When you get into trouble, ask God to help you change so that you do not do it again.

Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

PILATE
GALILEE
KILLED

SACRIFICES
SINNERS
SILOAM

WORSE
TREE
GARDENER

B	O	U	S	T	H	T	O	M	S
G	A	L	I	L	E	E	I	J	A
A	D	S	L	A	O	L	D	T	C
R	H	W	O	R	S	E	A	H	R
D	G	E	A	V	T	N	P	O	I
E	R	D	M	S	R	T	I	R	F
N	K	I	L	L	E	D	L	S	I
E	O	M	P	F	E	O	A	M	C
R	G	A	L	T	B	K	T	I	E
L	D	E	S	I	N	N	E	R	S

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Prayer



Dear God,

help me to grow
closer to you
with every day
you give me.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself walking
next to Jesus in
your school.